

LIBERTY

Published by the Libertarian Party of Colorado

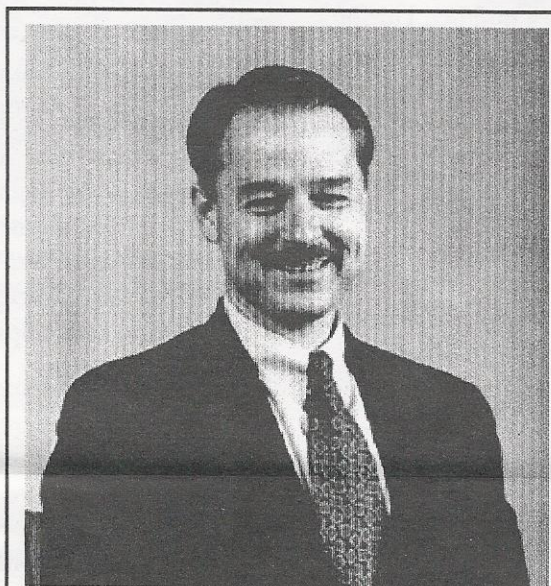
April 2000

The meeting of the new board of directors will be held at 4:00 pm on Sunday, April 16 following proceedings at the state convention.

Party members are welcome at the meeting. Please call BetteRose for details: 303.639.5530

Reserve your spot at the State Convention! See pages 6 and 7 for details.

April 14-16: State Convention Plans Finalized



David Boaz of the Cato Institute will keynote the banquet at this year's convention.

Don Gorman, former Libertarian state representative of New Hampshire, has tossed his hat in the ring for the Libertarian presidential nomination. He is emphasizing support for local candidates. To that end, he has been campaigning beside many of the local candidates in other states. Mr. Gorman plans to sit on several panels and help with candidate training at this year's convention. He will also address convention attendees on Sunday morning.

Larry Hines withdrew in late February from the race for the presidential nomination. He will not be a speaker at the Colorado convention this year. We will miss his insight.

Update: Barry Hess, presidential hopeful from Arizona, will address the convention on Sunday. All other Libertarian presidential hopefuls have been invited to speak, but only Mr. Gorman, Mr. Browne and Mr. Hess have confirmed.

Remember that the business meeting portion of the convention is free to all members. This includes the bylaw changes, the board reports, and the elections of

board members, state candidates and national delegates. It does NOT include any of our speakers or the presidential candidates. If you wish to hear the candidates, you must purchase a convention pass.

We have had very little response to the abortion forum that was announced for the convention. If you wish to be part of this important discussion, please call Tom Goonan at 303.202.9069. Don't miss your chance to address fellow Libertarians about this topic.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The correct address for the hotel is 4411 Peoria Street, not 441 Peoria as stated in previous ads. It has also been brought to our attention that the flyer for the convention has last year's dates on the schedule. The correct dates for the convention are April 14-16. Really.

Tanner Gun Show Nets Members

Joe Johnson reported that the Libertarian table at the March 18-19 Tanner Gun Show netted a dozen Libertarian registrations and raised \$85.00, helping to offset its expense. Volunteers at the event also included David Baker, Elizabeth Bennet, Mike Dray, Jon Ford, Jeff Lucius, Jeff Miller, Brian Rachocki, Lori Van Buren, Greg Woods and Chuck Wright.

The LP table cost money to assemble and each gun show appearance brings an additional fee. Johnson urges those interested in helping this outreach program to make a special contribution. The project also needs volunteers to man the tables at Tanner and other shows in Colorado.

Johnson said he was first attracted to the Libertarian Party because of its strong support of the right to bear arms. Especially since Governor "Gun Control" Bill Owens has called for tighter gun restrictions, gun owners may be more open than ever to joining the LP, Johnson said.

To participate or donate to the project, call Johnson at 303.604.9153. The next Tanner show is April 29-30.

See photograph on page 5.

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Notes from the Chair:

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from the Libertarian National Committee meeting in Chicago. Many of you may be aware that I also sit on that committee. One of the most important things discussed was our goals for the elections this year. Two major goals are to have 2000 candidates nationwide and to have at least 218 Libertarians running for Congress. While we're well on our way, we are still short by quite a number. During the discussion, though, I found out some very interesting facts.

Did you know that Colorado is the easiest state in the Union for Libertarians to get on the ballot in partisan races? All that is necessary is for the candidate to be a registered Libertarian for one year by June, 2000, to be nominated at the state convention, to have the party file a nomination form and for the candidate to file an acceptance form. There is no petitioning, no outrageous filing fees, no real hoops to jump through.

Texas also has it easier than most when it comes to placing candidates on the ballot and has done quite a job of it. In fact, Texas has all the congressional seats covered with the exception of the seat held by Ron Paul, a libertarian serving as a Republican. What makes this particularly interesting, though, is membership density in Texas (81 Libertarians per million persons) is almost a third of Colorado's density (210 Libertarians per million persons), yet they have all their congressional seats covered while Colorado still only has candidates for half the races.

Many of the other states have managed to recruit local candidates throughout their state, supporting the 2000 candidates in 2000 goal. While we have a few local candidates, we are well shy of pulling our weight. Some states have much tougher election laws than Colorado does currently. If we want to have a nation where people can vote

Libertarian and live in a free world, we need to take advantage of our opportunities. States like Colorado must make the most of their good fortune by running as many candidates as possible.

I attended the Jefferson County "quasi-caucus," so named to keep candidates from having to file paperwork until after the state convention. The expectation was that one candidate would be asking for support. What happened was truly amazing. There were a total of seven people who stepped forward to become candidates at some level and a few more who are thinking about it. This was indeed great and we need more of this type of participation.

Last election cycle we had 27 candidates. Our recruiting started late and there was a chance petitions would be required. This year we know how easy it is to become a Libertarian candidate. This year let's make our ballot access work for us and Libertarians all across the nation. A strong party showing here helps everyone.

Last cycle we had some candidate support for those who ran. There were yard signs and brochures printed. This year we already have a whole team out there ready to support our candidates. There will be help with the filings, there will be help with web sites, there will be training classes. There may even be people willing to work on active campaigns as volunteers. This year even our educational candidates will have great support.

Think about becoming a candidate this year. Whether you run an active campaign, an educational campaign, or a line-holder campaign, know that you can make a difference here and throughout the nation. Be a candidate and when you look yourself in the eye each morning you will know how to answer Sara Wilson's question—What have I done for freedom today?!

See you at the convention!

BetteRose Smith

"Colorado is the easiest state in the Union for Libertarians to get on the ballot."

LIBERTY

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Arapahoe Registers LP Members 'Unaffiliated'

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Michele Poague has been working very hard with the Glendale Tea Party for the election coming up on April 4, 2000. Among her many duties is registering people to vote, delivering those registrations to the county office, and picking up copies of the voter registration lists. To ensure everyone is properly registered, she takes a photocopy of each registration before dropping it off.

What has been discovered is the office for Arapahoe County located on Peoria and Arapahoe Road enters all Libertarians as Unaffiliated! She noticed several new Libertarian voters who have not been properly registered, even though the forms are absolutely clear. To the credit of the county office on Prince Street, none of those registrations have been entered incorrectly.

If you are a Libertarian member who pays dues and you think you are registered as a Libertarian, you may want to check with your county clerk to be sure. We would have you on our mailing list because you have paid dues.

If you are receiving the *Liberty* and you have not donated money to the party (and you are not a member of the media), we most likely got your name from the voter registration list. You should be registered as a Libertarian.

The most pressing issue now is how to find voters who have wrongly been registered as Unaffiliated. Do we try to call all of these people? Is the voter registration card, which is kept on file, open for public review? If so, do we search all the Unaffiliated files?

Years ago, Doug Anderson knew a candidate who wanted to run but who was registered improperly as a Democrat. Anderson said it was obvious a shaky hand had changed the L to a D on the voter form.

Poague believes we may be missing as many as a hundred or more members through the Peoria office alone. If other county offices are doing the same, we could be missing a sizable number of Libertarians.

Often, when a new person or a substitute person enters the voter registration information into the computer, they are unaware of how to put in third parties. Logan County, for instance, has one person familiar with the process. No one else knows how to register minor political party affiliations, so when that person is gone, registrations can be entered incorrectly. This does not include some of the deliberate cases, like the one Anderson reported.

If you would like to help clean up the voter registration list, give BetteRose Smith a call at 303.639.5530.

*"We may
be missing
as many as
a hundred
or more
members"
due to faulty
registration.*

Rating Performance Based on Liberty

by Tom Goonan

In the November 2000 election, the Libertarian Party will probably run more candidates than ever, but we are not going to have enough candidates to cover all of the offices.

Whenever we do not have a candidate, wouldn't it be nice to have a location, or a link to a location, where a voter could get a candidate rating from a libertarian perspective? Also, there will be retention votes for many of the State's judges. Typically, these "yes"/"no" votes favor the incumbent by 60:40. The only rating the judges get comes in the form of a recommendation from the legal community to retain or not retain the judge. Rarely is a "do not retain" recommendation made.

I would like to begin a project to rate candidates, office holders, and judges according to some kind of objective libertarian criteria. The rating itself might bear a name like "Freedom Advocacy Rating." Perhaps we could utilize other group's ratings -- for example, the National Taxpayer's Union rating for fiscal responsibility -- and combine that with other groups

that do social ratings, and come up with additional criteria to build a composite rating that is libertarian.

I expect that this project will cost many hours, so I am looking for some helpers who have time and skills and would like to do some real research. Maybe we just need to start with judges and branch out from there. I would like to have your ideas and to get a sense of the number of persons who might be interested in doing this. Contact Tom Goonan at 303.202.9069 or tgoonan@sprintmail.com.

Let Freedom Ring! April 10, 2000

It's time to issue a wake-up call. On April 10, 2000, join freedom advocates in calling, faxing, e-mailing, and snail-mailing elected officials with requests for a return to properly limited government. The project was not initiated by the Libertarian Party, but the LP stands to benefit from the campaign and lead the way in bringing about genuine political change.

Community Corner

Adams County LP

Tax Protest Planned

The Adams County Libertarians will gather at the North Washington Post Office just south of 120th Avenue in Northglenn to hand out "Million Dollar" bills and other LP information to late income tax filers between 7 pm and midnight on April 17. Concerned, non-affiliated citizens and party members from other counties are welcome and encouraged to participate. For more information contact Jay Carper at 303.252.7808.

Would you like to participate in a tax protest in downtown Denver? Call BetteRose Smith for more information at 303.639.5530.

Resolution Passed Opposing Foreign Military Service

On Monday, February 28, after polling members of the county organization via e-mail, the Executive Committee of Adams County Libertarians passed a resolution opposing the wearing of foreign military insignia by United States Forces and the serving of United States military personnel under the command of foreign officers.

The resolution was prompted by the ongoing fight of Michael New against his court martial for refusing to wear a United Nations uniform while serving in the Balkans. The resolution was adopted as proposed by Daniel New, Michael's father.

The resolution reads, "Whereas, members of the United States Armed Forces are being compelled, without lawful authority, to serve under military and other officers of the United Nations and other Foreign States, Therefore, be it resolved that no member of the Armed Forces of the United States may be required to wear as part of the military uniform any badge, symbol, headgear, or other visible indicia or insignia of the United Nations or any other foreign State; and Be it further resolved that no member of the Armed Forces of the United States may be required to serve in any capacity under an officer of the United Nations or other foreign State, except as specifically provided by law and, then, only during time of war expressly declared by Congress in accordance with Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution."

There were no opposing votes and the only reservation expressed was that perhaps the Constitution gives Congress a little too much liberty in declaring war.

*"Be an active
part of the party
as it moves
forward into the
21st Century."*

Jeffco News

by Tom Goonan

On March 9, 2000, twenty Jefferson County affiliate members met to discuss candidate recommendations for the State Convention in April. The group studied the various openings in Jefferson County as well as in the State, a map of political districts, and the background of volunteers who might like to be candidates.

These are the recommendations that the Jeffco affiliate will present to the delegates of the State Convention for consideration:

U.S. Congress, District 6: Adam Katz

Colorado Secretary of State: Johanna Fallis

Colorado House District 23: Marcus Chappell

Colorado House District 27: Aldo Remos

Colorado House District 29: Greg Miller

CU Board of Regents (At Large): Joe Downey

RTD District M: Slim Sulyma (pending residency confirmation)

State Board Elections

Most of the Colorado Board of Directors will be leaving the board this April. Many important positions will be open for new, energetic, enthusiastic libertarians. Have you wanted to make a difference? Do you want a chance to help with the big picture? Take up a board position. This is your chance to be an active part of the party as it moves forward into the 21st century.

The state board in Colorado acts as the backbone of the Libertarian Party of Colorado. While our affiliates are the muscle that keeps the party running, creates local candidates, fights local issues, and builds party membership and loyalty, the state board helps give much needed support. As part of its many activities, the state board:

Produces a statewide newsletter, letting all our members and many news outlets know what is happening all over the state. Who just became a candidate? Which new affiliate has just started up? How did the last protest do? Did our legislation pass the house and will the governor sign it? Find it all in the *Liberty*.

Keeps track of the membership and the voter registrations. The board tracks information of not only our members by area but also of other voters. Who has paid their dues? Who has moved? The information director has the answers.

Handles all the state finances. Who knows who has donated money? Who files the paperwork for the party with the Secretary of State? Who writes the checks for the printing of the *Liberty* and keeps us right with the post office? The state treasurer.

Helps affiliates get going. Need information about how to start an affiliate? Want to know what has worked in other areas? Where do you go to get supplies and banners for your special projects? Call the outreach director.

Handles the media at the state level. Ever wonder who handles calls from the media? Who sends out statewide press releases? Who arranges for speakers at special events and for schools? It's the public information director.

Raises money for statewide projects. Some projects and material purchases are better funded at the state level. These include the *Liberty*, the candidates yard signs, literature to pass out, and special projects like the education video. The fund raising director works to insure there are funds for these things.

Tracks campaigns. Who is running and where? What districts are open? How does one run for an office? Where does one get the necessary paperwork? These questions and more are keeping our campaign director busy. Though many such issues can be handled at a local level if you have a strong affiliate, it helps not to have to duplicate everything throughout the state.

Tracks the legislature. What bills are up that are important to libertarians? When should we make public comments? Who should we call about passing (or not passing) certain bills? The legislative director helps keep all of us informed.

Without our members and our local affiliates, the Libertarian Party of Colorado would not be much of a political party. Members and affiliates make things happen. Without a strong board of directors, much of the communications and support would be lost. We need both to move ahead. Consider joining the Colorado Board of Directors so we can ensure support for all those people who get things done.

LP of El Paso County Gun Show, Hemp Rally

LPEP had its hands full organizing for two recent events—a gun show March 24-26 and a Hemp Rally on March 25.

If the Libertarian Party could ever get the gunnies and the supporters of drug legalization on our side, it would be the biggest coalition in America. LPEP called their booths "Operation Politically Homeless."

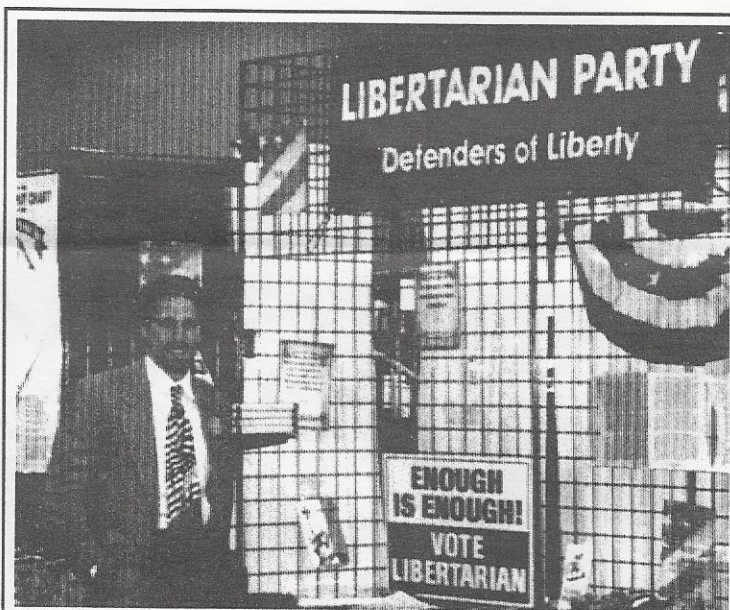
Join LPEP Income Tax Protest Rally

The one time every year guaranteed to irritate just about everyone into wishing for smaller government comes when it's time to fill out the income tax form. Once per year you can count on a large group of these irritated folks to all show up in one place on the same day: the filing deadline date at the post office

We need volunteers to help man what has become a Libertarian tradition, handing out fake million dollar bills at the post office on file deadline date, which this year will be April 17.

The oversized million dollar bill is a very catchy item and is an excellent way of introducing the Libertarian Party to people at the moment they have the greatest distaste for the expansive federal government.

If you are interested in participating, contact Ross Glidewell at 719.380.1383 or glidewell@webaccess.net.



Joe Johnson shows off his new LP display booth at the Tanner Gun Show March 18.

Gorman Plans Colo. Springs Events

LPEP media director Steve Gresh plans to arrange meetings in Colorado Springs with Don Gorman, running to be nominated as the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate. Gorman held elected office as a two-term state legislator in New Hampshire and currently sits on a local zoning board.

We may need volunteers to help support Gorman at media events. If you would like the chance to meet Mr. Gorman, call 719.596.6799 or e-mail jgelt@aol.com and you'll be kept up to date.

Contact LPEP at www.LPEP.org, info@LPEP.org, or 719.596.6799.

Full package ONLY \$129
Call BetteRose at 303-639-5530 today!

9 MORE GREAT SEMINARS!

The Campus Conundrum. College campus organizer, Dr. James Lark, sheds light on the mysteries of setting up college affiliates and inspiring young people to get involved in politics.

What is the price of free speech? A two hour, hands on, workshop on desktop publishing and web page design. This is a wonderful chance to practice on state-of-the-art equipment.

Forum on Libertarianism and Abortion. Enjoy listening to, or participating in, a moderated debate on the controversial subject of government's role in the abortion issue.

**One Toke Over the Line:
The Prohibition of Drugs.** Sheriff Bill Masters heads this fascinating panel on the dangers of drug prohibition. An interesting discussion on how drug laws hurt non-drug users and help drug dealers.

Freedom in Education: What you should know about starting a charter school. An exciting panel hosted by those who have braved the system.

What does it mean to be Libertarian?

Is this your first Libertarian convention? Join us for coffee and tea as we discuss the basic planks of the Libertarian platform and get a better understanding of how the libertarianism philosophy can be applied to all aspects of our lives.

Gun Rights Held Hostage:

Libertarians are up in arms.

The second amendment is the amendment that secures all other amendments. This exciting panel on the future of gun rights will be hosted by Sheriff Bill Masters; and David Segal, well known historian of Military Affairs and Gun Rights.

Graphics, Grammar and Gray Matter.

Your press kit and brochure are often the only way a reporter meets you. What kind of impression are you making? Candidates and campaign managers will enjoy this important workshop.

www.freedom.com: Changing the World

One Byte at a Time. :-)

The Internet is an untapped libertarian market. Explore new strategies for campaigning on line. Learn style and technique for designing stunning web sites from the party's most successful internet gurus: Barry Maggert, Jesse Wilkins, Ari Armstrong and Ron Bain.

16 MORE GREAT SPEAKERS!

Ari Armstrong

Ron Bain

Michele Bethke

Dicki Brady

David Bryant

Steve D'ippolito

Carol Geltemeyer

John Geltemeyer

Bob Glass

Tom Goonan

Cheri Jeffryes

Barry Maggert

David Segal

BetteRose Smith

Jesse Wilkins

Sara Wilson

*Don't Miss These
Additional
Speakers*

David Boaz

W. Earl Allen

Harry Browne

Vin Suprynowicz

Sheriff Bill Masters

Dr. James W. Lark III

Address Correction!

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**Additional Speaker!
Presidential Candidate
Barry Hess**

*Don't Miss
These
Great
Events*

Dance

Banquet

Luncheon

Suite Parties

Coffee Klatches

APRIL 14th -15th -16th

LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION 2000

SPECIAL UP-DATE

MEET PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DON GORMAN

Don Gorman is the dean of elected American Libertarians and recipient of the "Most Effective Elected Libertarian" award in 1996. He was elected as a Libertarian to the New Hampshire Legislature in 1992 and reelected as a Libertarian in 1994. He was leader of the four man Libertarian caucus in the NH House and served on the Criminal Justice Committee and the Rules Committee. "One of my proudest moments was when unconstitutional drunk-driving roadblocks vanished from New Hampshire because my bill became law." Don Gorman will be seeking the presidential nomination. His campaign will focus on supporting local candidates. To that end, he will be attending our entire convention, helping with the workshops for candidates on Saturday and speaking on Sunday. He will also be participating in radio shows, newspaper interviews, and other local speaking engagements.

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

APRIL 14th - 15th - 16th

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

		Door Price
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DAY WITH BANQUET:	\$129	\$149
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL BANQUET:	\$45	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DAY NO BANQUET:	\$99	\$109
<input type="checkbox"/> BANQUET ONLY:	\$55	\$65

☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Money Order
☐ Visa/ Master Card _____

Make Checks Payable to Bette Rose Smith or Michele Bethke

☐ BEEF ☐ SEAFOOD ☐ VEGETARIAN

Exp. _____

Signature _____

Mail to: Libertarian Convention 2000

720 East 18 Avenue, #309

Denver, CO 80203

303-837-9393

Remember, there is no charge for business meetings or candidate elections

..... How do you get here from there?
.....

If you are driving in from the west, take I-70 east past I-25 to Peoria Street. North, under I-70, 1 block. Hotel is on the left. From DIA or from the east, take I-70 west to Peoria Street. North 1/2 block. Hotel is on the left. For questions: please call BetteRose at 303-639-5530.

Letter: Are Children Welcome at Convention?

The following statement was published in the Colorado Libertarian Convention 2000 brochure:

"The target audience for this convention is adult. Children in attendance at the convention and/or banquet are to behave in such a manner as to not be a distraction to the speakers or the participants. If you are bringing a small infant, please advise us in advance so that we may seat you at a table where there will be minimum interference for the wait staff and your expedient exit if necessary. Thank you for your cooperation."

Given that we were the only people with children at last year's convention we felt compelled to respond. In our experience, such a 'prior control' approach only creates more problems. Two things follow:

Those with children may be more tense, feeling as if their and their children's behavior is on display and being evaluated, which has a greater likelihood of being true purely due to the tone of the statement.

People who may feel annoyed by the presence of children will also have an advance mental "set" or premise as stated in the brochure, that children are "expected to behave." Therefore they may have a greater focus on blaming the children and/or parents for their feelings of annoyance. They may also expect a narrow range of actions from the children and parents rather than seeking a creative and satisfactory solution on an individual basis.

To place families and children's needs below the wait staff's needs, instead of assuming they are equal (or even that the wait staff's role is to adapt to the needs of the paying customer) sends a clear message regarding the status of families and children at this year's convention.

This parallels the problems created by government actions...a self-fulfilling prophecy of negative attitudes and actions that limit solutions and escalate conflict. If we as Libertarians are to achieve our goal of self-government we must be willing to approach any interpersonal conflict with openness and creativity rather than a bureaucratic or authoritarian approach.

Setting policy is how the government behaves; it assumes individuals are not capable of proper interpersonal behavior or problem solving. It pre-empts individual action or conflict resolution processes by defining verbally what is "to be expected." We trust that Libertarians, both parents and those who prefer to not have children present, are capable of far better problem solving.

A perceptual set has now been defined by the brochure. It will alter the attitudes, and therefore actions, of conventioners. We believe that any problems that occur at the convention are best solved by individuals in the context of the situation, based on principles of mutual satisfaction and non self-sacrifice.

There is no place for children this year, such as the game room or other environment to meet their needs. The statement "are to behave" communicates children and families are to be evaluated and blamed. The assumption that there will be a problem helps to create one. As a family, we do not anticipate this convention to be very satisfying for us, due to these things.

Communicating to potential convention consumers that families are welcome builds the party. The game room was designed last year to be such a space families could use as a home base for operations, where they could come and go, plan and regroup, socialize and make new alliances and help one another.

Artificial environments that separate generations of people do not help to expand or grow our goals of a strong Libertarian movement with a voice in government policy. A political party is a representation of the values and ideas of a group of individuals. And just as we must communicate that women (who make up only 15% of registered Libertarians, but make up 51% of registered voters) are welcome and our ideas are relevant to them, so too is there a need to reach families. It is our political opinion that many problems that arise in our culture are derived from the artificial separations of generations. Mostly, this relates to children not observing adults in work and social interactions.

So what do we recommend? Family registrations with additional meal options and activity spaces. Families would appreciate such a "supportive" approach, rather than a "setting policy" approach. Supportive measures allow greater dignity for all involved. We are happy to be working to create a more welcome environment for families within the party.

Sincerely, The Lamping Family

The Convention Committee Responds:

Children are welcome, just as the young lady (age seven) was invited to the Browne dinner in '96. We only ask that each of us respects the rights of those who have paid to hear the speakers. Children will not be treated any differently than adults in this respect.

It is true we have no game room this year. There was no suite available and we had no one willing to oversee an open hotel room. The convention committee, not the Party, is responsible for the costs of the convention, which has lost money every year. We deemed it unwise to spend more money on something that was little-used last year.

Children are always welcome to attend the convention. We have a scholarship for students with no age restrictions. Asking people to let us know when there will be children at the banquet is necessary to ensure enough seats are available.

"Many problems that arise in our culture are derived from the artificial separations of generations."

'Radical Son' Reveals Art of Political War

by Ari Armstrong

Why, when the unrefuted evidence proves that civil arms reduce crime and that gun restriction laws such as those mandating storage increase crime, do many of the public side with Bill Clinton, Bill Owens, and Wellington Webb in calling for allegedly "common-sense gun laws that keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children?" Why did the public support Bill Clinton, a demonstrated liar, and blame Republicans for unleashing "the politics of personal destruction?"

It's the politics, stupid.

That's what leftist-turned-conservative David Horowitz told the audience gathered December 2, 1999 for the Independence Institute's 15th Annual Founders' Night Dinner in downtown Denver.

The Institute purchased copies of Horowitz' booklet, *The Art of Political War*, for those who attended. Horowitz subtitled his booklet, "How Republicans Can Fight to Win." However, the booklet describes political strategies useful by any activist, whether Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, or whatever.

Horowitz begins with a simple observation. Those who publicly advocate individual responsibility also tend to blame others for their political shortcomings. "It's the biased media!" "People are too morally corrupt to support good policies!" Instead of blaming others, Horowitz suggests one look in the mirror. It's the politics, stupid.

Horowitz lays out his six principles of political warfare:

1. Politics is war conducted by other means.
2. Politics is a war of position.
3. In political wars the aggressor usually prevails.
4. Position is defined by fear and hope.
5. The weapons of politics are symbols that evoke fear and hope.
6. Victory lies on the side of the people.

We might simplify Horowitz' observations into one main point: Distill and market your message in a way that resonates with the fears and hopes of the common people.

People support fairness, they don't support those they perceive as mean-spirited or in the pockets of special interests. Fairness includes helping the underdogs in society — the minorities, the poor, the trampled.

However, most people are politically unsophisticated. Opinion polls can be radically skewed merely by a subtle change of wording. Most people vote according to personality and superficial characteristics. Hardly anyone actually follows the arcane details of policy

debates. To take the example of firearms, most people cannot define "assault rifle," "Saturday Night Special," or "illegal gun," — and even fewer have actually read any of the relevant literature, such as John Lott's detailed *More Guns, Less Crime*.

Therefore, those who wish to win the hearts and minds of the public cannot rely upon detailed statistical studies, policy papers, and sophisticated arguments. Instead, they must distill their messages into sound-bites, chants that are easy to remember and repeat.

For instance, Bill Clinton beat removal from office by accusing the Republicans of "the politics of personal destruction." Clinton is now lying through his teeth with junk statistics pertaining to firearms, but he makes the news calling for more "common sense laws to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children." Of course, there's nothing sensible about Clinton's proposals, which will actually increase innocent deaths at the hands of criminals. But politics isn't about truth, it's about perceptions. And Clinton is perceived as caring about "the children" (despite Waco).

Horowitz gives an example of a good sound-bite that supports lower taxes. Democrats support higher taxes by describing cuts as "tax breaks for the wealthy on the backs of the poor." A good counter-sound-bite is, "taxes for bureaucrats out of the pockets of the people."

An important corollary of the fact that most people are politically unsophisticated is implied by Horowitz' third rule: the aggressor usually prevails. That is, once a particular sound-bite is popularized, most people just tune out opposing viewpoints. Now, many accept as fact that newly proposed laws will "keep guns out of the hands of criminals and children." By definition, then, those who oppose such laws want criminals and children to have guns. Of course, that's utterly false: Clinton's proposals will actually increase crime and endanger the lives of children. But this is politics, and Clinton has defined the issue.

Some civil gun rights advocates have been effective in their political warfare. Lott's simple title, *More Guns, Less Crime*, pretty much sums up the case. Rallies with signs like "Guns Stop Rape" have made the Denver papers. And the renaming of "Project Exile" into "Project Gulag" or "Project Gestapo" has made obvious the actual purpose of that propaganda campaign.

9

*Politics is war
conducted by
other means.*

Disputes with Horowitz

I have hit only some of the highlights of Horowitz' short work. It contains a wealth of insights of value to all those who want to use the political process to help restore liberty. However, I have problems with several of Horowitz' arguments and presumptions.

First, he only discusses modern American democracy. But our country did not start out as a democracy — it began with severely limited privileges of voting and with a Constitution meant to restrict the scope of voting. Most of what the Federal government undertakes today violates the Constitution. The danger with Horowitz' presentation is that it encourages the reification of the present order.

There is a deeper criticism: many libertarians, especially Objectivists, hold out hope for a more rational world, one in which sound-bites don't play very well. However, that simply isn't the world we live in today, and there's good reason to think that a majority of the populace will always remain intellectually unsophisticated. Yet, again, we must not wrongly universalize modern society.

Certainly libertarians do not hold up democracy as a political ideal. As one old saying puts it, democracy is two wolves and a sheep voting on what's for dinner. The libertarian ideal is one in which society bans the initiation of force — which means most of what government does today. Indeed, many libertarians refuse to vote or pursue politics on principle. I think that's wrong. Of course politics is not the only or even the best means of social change. But it is an important means, and one which doesn't threaten personal safety (much). Thus, using the democratic process to restrain democracy is a good thing. Along those lines, Horowitz' strategies are useful even (or especially) for libertarians.

I have to believe that truth is not wholly irrelevant to politics, even in today's climate. Horowitz has convinced me that truth with bad politics will always lose to lies backed by good political strategy. However, if we use effective political strategies to advocate the truth, surely that has some advantage. It's been said that lies can travel halfway around the world before truth even laces up her shoes. That just means it's time to put truth through resolute conditioning.

Ultimately the human soul yearns for freedom. But it may take the art of political war to rescue that soul and lead it to triumph.

David Horowitz' The Art of Political War can be purchased from The Committee for a Non-Left Majority, singly or in bulk, at 800.699.3313 or www.noleft.com.

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LIBERTY CALENDAR

April • May 2000

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

					A p r i l	1 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Crossroads Gun Show Call Joe Johnson: 303.604.9153 <i>April Fool's Day</i>
2 Cross-roads Gun Show Call Joe Johnson: 303.604.9153	3 Boulder , noon. Call Ron Bain: 303.443.9179 Southside , 7pm. Call Bennett: 303.740.8690 Adams County , 7 pm Call Jay Carper: 303.252.7808	4 Fort Collins Breakfast, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S College Ave. Call Lee Smith: 970.635.0395	5 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.532.0118 Broomfield Mamie Doud Library at Civic Center, 7pm. Call Wright Morgan: 303.465.9676	6 Jefferson County 6 pm. social, 7 pm. business. 12895 W. 16th. Dr. in Golden. Call Tom Goonan: 303.202.9069	7	8 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334
9	10 Boulder Luncheon, noon. Call Ron Bain 303.443.9179 Adams County , 7 pm Call Jay Carper: 303.252.7808	11	12 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. Call John Bertson: 719.532.0118	13 Boulder LPBC Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Cheng's Chinese, 480 W Dahlia in Louisville. Call Ron Bain: 303.443.9179 <i>Thomas Jefferson's Birthday • 1743</i>	14 State Convention in Denver through the 16th. Call Michele Bethke: 303.690.2907	15 State Convention see ad on pages 6-7 for more information
16 State Convention	17 Boulder , noon. Call Ron Bain 303.443.9179 Fort Collins , 7pm. Call Dan Cochran 970.667.7557	18	19 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm Call John Bertson: 719.532.0118 Routt County , 7pm. Call Mike Zuckerman 970.870.8104	20	21	22 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334
23/30 Tanner Gun Show Call Joe Johnson: 303.604.9153	24 Boulder Luncheon, noon. Call Ron Bain 303.443.9179 Adams County , 7 pm Call Jay Carper: 303.252.7808	25	26 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7pm. Call John Bertson: 719.532.0118	27	28	29 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334 Tanner Gun Show Call Joe Johnson: 303.604.9153

Future Dates on the Liberty Calendar:

- June 30 through July 3: **National Convention in Anaheim, California.**
For more information call: 202.333.0008 ext. 227

M a y

	1 Boulder , noon. Call Ron Bain: 303.443.9179	2 Fort Collins Breakfast, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Cafe, 238 S College Ave. Call Lee Smith: 970.635.0395	3 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719.532.0118 Broomfield 7pm. Call Wright Morgan: 303.465.9676 Adams County , 7 pm Call Jay: 303.252.7808	4 Jefferson County 6 pm. social, 7 pm. business. 12895 W. 16th. Dr. in Golden. Call Tom Goonan: 303.202.9069	5	6 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334
7	8 Boulder Luncheon, noon. Call Ron Bain 303.443.9179 Adams County , 7 pm Call Jay Carper: 303.252.7808	9	10 Colorado Springs Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. Call John Bertson: 719.532.0118	11 Boulder LPBC Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Murphy's Grill 28th & Iris in Boulder. Call Ron Bain: 303.443.9179	12	13 Denver Breakfast LePeep's, 8 am. 303.831.4334

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